

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 113-T01

Agency Name: Pathways Adolescent Center  
Program Name: Transitional Living Program  
Service Name: Female Residential Program and Male Residential  
Cohort Total: 13  
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: Jun. 1, 2016 - Apr. 1, 2017  
Referral County(s): Armstrong (1), Butler (3), Clarion (1), Clinton (1), Jefferson (1), Lawrence (1), Venango (4), and Warren (1)  
Date(s) of Interview(s): Jan. 5, 2017  
Lead County: Venango and Mercer  
Probation Representative(s): Julie Bullard, Venango Co. and Pam Farkas, Mercer Co.  
EPIS Representative: Heather Perry

## Description of Service:

Located in Oil City Pennsylvania, Pathways Adolescent Center is a privately owned residential facility provider that serves Pennsylvania youth referred by Children and Youth and Juvenile Probation. Their campus consists of a 28 bed male residential unit, a Transitional Living Program for youth aged 14-16, a 28 bed female residential/transitional living unit named New Beginnings, two 12 bed male transitional living units, a counseling center, a recreation facility, and a private academic school. Craig Psychological Services provides treatment and counseling on site that includes drug and alcohol, family, individual and group counseling, as well as Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Seeking Safety. Specialized treatment, such as Grief Counseling or Sexual Abuse Curriculum must be approved by the referring agency. Further, each youth has the opportunity to complete Community Service Projects, Court Ordered Community Service Completion, Restitution/Payment Plans/Personal Banking, Employment, and Money Management Skills. Pathways offers Behavioral Modification Programming while incorporating Cognitive Behavioral Therapy techniques with counseling services. The Residential Programs have a daily point system, which each youth will have the opportunity to ascend or descend, depending on how well he/she is able to meet the expectations of the Program and any applicable focal goals of counseling. Running parallel to one's movement within the point system is an increasing number of privileges. Privileges include home passes, late bedtime, special activity privileges, etc. The privilege system is designed primarily for group management purposes. Pathways offers two male and one female Transitional Living Programs that utilize the Ansell Casey Testing to aid in making an individualized transitional living plan. These results will indicate strengths, and deficient areas that need to be addressed. The Transitional Living Component also offers the resident the ability to obtain employment, attend public school and activities (if appropriate), and have additional counseling services that entail basic life skills with an adaptation to the Individual Service Plan to meet his/her discharge needs. Youth that have paid their restitution in full will place 25% of his weekly/biweekly paycheck into a checking account to be budgeted for outings, off-campus free time, etc. The remaining 75% of his weekly paycheck is deposited into a savings account. These finances will be reserved for the youth to have upon discharge. The focus of this report is the vocational/job training services that are provided to all non-shelter youth. According to the Pathways Adolescent Center manual and the Employability and Soft Skills manual, educational and vocational services are run directly through the Riverview Intermediate Unit. Vocational programming is designed to meet the standards of the Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT). PACTT assists in providing vocational services within the educational program. The goal is to provide the youth with vocational education and training that will assist him in obtaining and sustaining long term employment. All residents are given assessments to assist youth to explore career options/interests through Career Link, OVR, the ASVAB, and the ANSEL Casey inventory. Also available to residents is an on-site work program at Pathways in dietary (which consists of serving and cleaning in the on grounds cafeteria), grounds maintenance (which is general cleaning of the facility), and landscaping (which is outside maintenance of the facility grounds). These paid work programs also include training and course-work.

## The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

### 1. SPEP™ Service Type: Job Related Training-Job Training

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Remedial Academic Program

Was the supplemental service provided? No      Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 10

Total Points Received: 5      Total Points Possible: 35

2. Quality of Service: Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20      Total Points Possible: 20

**3. Amount of Service:** Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP™ service categorization. Each SPEP™ service type has varying amounts of duration and contact hours. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

**Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks:** 2

**Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours:** 6

**Total Points Received:** 8 **Total Points Possible:** 20

**4. Youth Risk Level:** The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS.

12 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points  
7 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 13 points

**Total Points Received:** 23 **Total Points Possible:** 25

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 56 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

*Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.*

**Program Optimization Percentage:** 75% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research.)

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### **The SPEP™ and Performance Improvement**

The intended use of the SPEP™ is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service Feedback Report, and these recommendations are the focus of the Performance Improvement Plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the juvenile probation department.

The Job Training Program scored a 56 for the Basic Score and 75% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 1 service - Job Related Training - Job Training service type. The program could continue to improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Service Type:
  - a. Enhance the Remedial Academic Program by tying it to the Job Training Program. (For example, assistance with portfolios)
2. Quality of Service Delivery:
  - a. Train the supervisors on the Job Training Program.
  - b. Ensure lesson plans are developed and referenced during service delivery with regularity.
  - c. Enhance the current policy/practice to identify specific corrective action steps that would occur when drift in service delivery is identified.
3. Amount of Service:
  - a. Explore opportunities to ensure students reach a minimum of 25 weeks and 400 hours of service
4. Risk Level of Youth Served:
  - a. Continue to serve moderate, high and very high risk youth.